

SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

MINUTES OF MEETING

Facilities Advisory Committee

June 14, 2005

10:30 a.m.

CHE Conference Room

Committee Members Present

Mr. Tony Ateca
Mr. Tuck Hanna
Mr. Walter Hardin
Mr. Rick Puncke
Mr. Dennis Rogers
Ms. Monica Scott
Dr. John Sutusky
Mr. Bob Wells
Mr. Richard Williams
Mr. Dale Wilson

Guests

Ms. Donna Collins
Mr. Craig Hess
Ms. Jennifer Pearce
Mr. Charles Shawver

Staff Present

Ms. Alyson Goff
Ms. Lynn Metcalf
Ms. Jan Stewart

The Facilities Advisory Committee met on June 14, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. in the CHE conference room. For the record, notification of the meeting was made to the public as required by the Freedom of Information Act.

I. Minutes of Meeting, April 26, 2005

It was moved (Ateca), seconded (Sutusky), and voted to approve the minutes of the meeting on April 26, 2005.

II. Discussion of Guidelines and Benchmarks for Capital Construction/Renovations

Ms. Metcalf stated that staff is doing a lot of training for the new Commission members to help them understand their responsibility as it relates to facilities. She stated an article was given to CHE members stating that institutions are building expensive student centers and that is causing tuition to increase. Ms. Metcalf reported that she has been asked to put some information together to show that the rate of increase in tuition and fees is also due to other factors. The cost of room and board has been another concern expressed by Commission members, but according to her information, that cost has not increased at the same rate as tuition and fees. The increase in tuition and fees is, to a great extent, due to loss in revenue for operating expenses because enrollment has been flat and funding has gone down. She asked institutions to show average construction costs in their particular area on the A-1's which would let the Commission know if construction costs were reasonable for a particular area. She also asked for input from the

Committee members on any cost data that would ease Commission members' concerns over costs.

Dr. Sutusky stated that it would be difficult to get a cost per square foot for the state because construction costs are more in certain parts of the state than others. Ms. Metcalf stated that it would be reasonable to state that factors beyond an institution's control cause a difference in costs. She stated that perhaps she could be more proactive and try to cover all the bases and try to anticipate questions. Also, it would be helpful to get more thorough information from the institutions when requesting project approval, even things that should be obvious. Based on her information, it appears that increased operating costs and the decrease in state operating appropriations is the main problem. On the other hand, enrollment usually increases in times of recession, but we have had very little enrollment increase overall. She would like to get some information to CHE members to show that the institutions are in line. Ms. Metcalf asked for any input by the end of the week.

After further discussion, Dr. Sutusky, Mr. Ateca, Mr. Wells, and Mr. Rogers agreed to meet and try to come up with some suggestions and asked for any information that might be helpful.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet K. Stewart
Recorder